

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAY 08, 2020
12:00 P.M. MHS AUDITORIUM
HELENA, MONTANA

CALL TO ORDER

President Kent Kleinkopf called the meeting to order a 12:00 p.m. Jodel Fohn took roll call via zoom.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present via phone, skype, Zoom, or other: Bob Brown, Ed Jasmin, Chuck Johnson, Kent Kleinkopf, Steve Lozar, Douglas MacDonald, Thomas Minckler, Thomas Nygard, Sam Phares, Sara Scott, Jude Sheppard, Mike Shields, Crystal Wong Shors, Hal Stearns.

Excused Board members: Cliff Edwards.

Staff present:

MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King, MHS SHPO Program Manager, Pete Brown, MHS Education Outreach Program Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberger; MHS Publications Manager, Diana Di Stefano; MHS Museum Program Manager, Jennifer Bottomly O’looney, Curator of Collections, Amanda Streeter Trum, Information Technology, Rennan Rieke, Membership Services, Jodel Fohn and Public Information Officer, Eve Byron.

NEW BUSINESS

Capitol Campaign

Kent Kleinkopf thanked all who have participated in the fundraising process. The needed funding for Phase 2 is almost raised. President Kleinkopf asked Bruce Whittenberg to update the board on the progress with the consultants.

Bruce Whittenberg – Phase one of the two phase process is complete. The report was recommended and approved by the board. It is really an internal assessment to recognize the things that are important for major fundraising efforts. Consultants are done with Phase 1. Phase 2 to help recognize what we need to do in the fundraising effort. Phase 1 listed our highest priorities and one was the hiring of a Development Coordinator, basically to oversee our fundraising efforts and tune up the strategic plan and a few other things. The second Phase is external that the consultants Curt Minor and Laura Brehm that we’ve been working with will help us develop a case for support and then to set up and conduct about 30 interviews with folks around the state, or outside the state, that might be potential supporters, not to raise money for us, but how they are feeling about their perception of the Historical Society and their feeling on our capacity to raise money and as prospective donors would they participate, and what level might they think about. To test our ability to raise 10 million dollars. As you all know, we have raised around 6 million dollars. This is an ideal project. By September or first of October we will have identified high potential prospects around the state. The second phase fees were \$50,000 plus expenses

and right now we have raised around \$45,000. One board member has donated \$40,000 and is challenging the remaining board members to raise the remaining funds. We have one extraordinarily generous board member that has stepped up.

Kent commends the board on their fundraising efforts and will accept board members checks for this. I can report that we are over \$45,000 and just about there. Does anyone have questions or concerns at this point?

Ed Jasmin questioned the proposal from the consultants recommended to add 2 positions. Do we have money set aside for them come from and what is the process to hire them?

Bruce Whittenberg said at the last meeting the board approved 1 person to be hired for the Development Coordinator and that will be privately funded for one year including benefits. Denise and her team are working on the position description and then we can begin to recruit. This will happen in the next 30 days to post the job and go from there. Laura is also interested in this as she has some potential candidates for us. Probably in the next 30 days, middle to late summer we want to have someone on board.

Ed Jasmin asked if it will it be hard to hire someone for only a year?

Bruce Whittenberg said that it is common to hire for one year and then find the funding to keep that employee, and it may become a general funding position.

Chuck Johnson verified that we have raised 6 million and have 4 million to be raised.

Bruce Whittenberg responded that we do have 4 million left to raise. This effort of the capitol campaign and will finish this in the next year. The real opportunity is moving forward, and the goal is that we be able to raise a lot more money than we are now and be 30% more effective raising money and create a 501(c) (3) down the road for more of a fund raising culture and structure. President Kleinkopf, would you like me to proceed (with the process that has already been approved) with Curt and Laura. They are ready to go.

President Kent Klienkopf – Asked Bruce to proceed.

President Kent Klienkopf called twice for any public comment, there was none.

It was moved by Ed Jasmin and seconded by Steve Lozar for the meeting to adjourn. Motion passed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING JULY 16, 2020

ADJOURNMENT 12:12 P.M.